

TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE REGULAR MEETING
February 7, 2022

The Township Committee Regular Meeting of the Township of Cranbury commenced at 7:03 p.m. by remote access videoconferencing in response to COVID-19 and the updated Open Public Meeting Act guidelines. Answering present to roll call were Township Committee members: Eman El-Badawi, Michael Ferrante, Matthew Scott, Evelyn Spann, and Mayor Barbara Rogers. Also present were Denise Marabello, Township Administrator/CFO; and Debra Rubin, Municipal Clerk. Mayor Rogers led in the salute to the flag, and Ms. Rubin read the following Open Public Meetings Act statement:

In accordance with Section 5 of the Open Public Meetings Act, it is hereby announced and shall be entered into the minutes of this meeting that adequate notice of this meeting has been provided:

Posted on the Bulletin Board of the Municipal Office at 23-A North Main Street, Cranbury, New Jersey and remains posted at that location.

Communicated to the Cranbury Press, Home News Tribune and Trenton Times on January 5, 2022.

Filed on January 5, 2022 at the Cranbury Municipal Office, 23-A North Main Street, Cranbury, New Jersey, posted on the Township's web site and remains on file for public inspection. Township website was previously updated with remote access information on April 24, 2020, and updated June 18, 2020.

Sent to those individuals who have requested personal notice.

Ms. Rubin read the following additional statement:

Cranbury Township

Statement on Public Comment during Remote Meeting

The public may electronically submit questions or comments to twpcclerk@cranbury-nj.com or in written letter form via mail to Cranbury Township Town Hall no later than 4:00 p.m. the day of the scheduled Committee Meeting. Name, address and phone or email must be included. Timely submitted questions or public comment shall be read aloud and addressed during the public meeting. Duplicate written comments may be summarized and noted for the record in a consistent manner.

To eliminate background noise so that all meeting participants may hear, please mute your microphone and remain in listening mode only. The Clerk will place all remote attendees on this platform on mute as well and will manage the order of the remote participant's comments. During public comment period(s), the Clerk will make an announcement that any remote participant seeking to comment must signify their intent by using the "raise hand" feature on Zoom. The Clerk will then unmute each participant individually when it is their designated time to speak. If you do not have a question or comment, please keep your microphone muted. Please unmute yourself only at the direction of the Clerk. All remote users must state their name and address at the beginning of his/her public comment.

Should a member of the public using the Zoom platform become disruptive, that individual will be kept on mute and receive a warning that continued disruption may result in their being prevented from speaking or removed from the meeting entirely. If time permits, the disruptive individual shall be allowed to speak after all other members of the public have been given the opportunity to speak.

The Township Committee will facilitate a dialogue with all commenters to the extent permitted by Zoom technology.

Approval of Minutes: Mayor Rogers asked if any members of the Township Committee would like to address changes or amendments to the following minutes. Hearing none, Mayor Rogers asked for a motion to adopt the following minutes:

-- Township Committee Regular Meeting Minutes of January 24, 2022;

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-- Township Committee Budget Meeting Minutes of January 29, 2022

On a motion by Mr. Scott, seconded by Mrs. Spann, along with the following roll call vote of the members of the Township Committee;

Ayes: (El-Badawi
(Ferrante
(Scott
(Spann
(Rogers

Abstain: (None
Absent: (None

Nays: (None

the Township Committee Regular Meeting Minutes of January 24, 2022 and the Township Committee Budget Meeting Minutes of January 29, 2022 were adopted.

**Reports and Communications
Members of Committee**

- Mrs. El-Badawi – Mrs. El-Badawi provided a report from the February EDAC meeting. She also reported on her attendance at the recent reorganizational meeting of the Shade Tree Commission.
- Mr. Ferrante – Mr. Ferrante reported on his attendance at the Board of Education, Cranbury Housing Associate (CHA) and Planning Board meetings. He plans to attend the upcoming Library Board meeting.
- Mr. Scott – Mr. Scott read aloud the Board of Health 2021 Accomplishments and 2022 Goals report. The Environmental Commission will attend a meeting to provide their report. He added he will be attending an upcoming State DOT meeting regarding Cranbury Circle.
- Mrs. Spann – Mrs. Spann reported on the Zoning Board, DRC, and Planning Board meetings. The Zoning Committee's first meeting of the year is scheduled for February 8th. They will be discussing the flood plain ordinance that is mandated by the State and the Complete Street ordinance.

Mayor

Mayor Rogers – The following items were covered under the Mayor's Updates and Upcoming Events;

- **Mayor's Wellness Committee** – Plans for a survey to be sent to the residents via email blast;
- **BOH** - 2022 Pet Licenses Report (64 cats & 361 dogs).
- **Lake Dredging** - FAQ available on Township website.
- **Sidewalk Snow Removal Code** – Visit township website for code.
- **Sustainability:**
 - Municipal Energy Audit** – Township owned Facilities visited by consultant. Draft audit will be provided in near future.
 - Bike Network Plan** – Middlesex County Planners and Engineers discussed request for ROW.
 - FEMA Raritan Watershed Discovery Webinar** – Mayor attended on January 26th.

Upcoming Events Schedule

- **Reminders:**
- Gourgaud Gallery – Month of February "Fabulous February Fundraiser"
- Gentle Yoga – February 16th

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- Annual Craft Show – March 5th & 6th
- 325 Anniversary Events - Events being planned; Parks – Arts in the Parks (April 3); Mayor's Walk to School (April 21), EC - Stream Clean Up (April 23rd), CHPS/Library Events (TBD); send iconic photos of Cranbury to mferrante@cranbury-nj.com
- Calendar of upcoming Board/Commission meetings and Township events visit can be found at: <https://www.cranburytownship.org/>

Department Heads: None

Boards – Parks Commission – Sally O'Grady, Parks Commission was present to provide the 2021 Accomplishments and 2022 Goals reports. She will provide volunteer hours to the township committee liaison and reported no vacancies on the commission.

Agenda Additions/Changes – None

Boards and Commissions – Mayor Rogers appointed the following under Mayoral Appointments:

- **Mayoral:**
 - Michael Cargill – Environmental Commission Alternate #2 – term expiration 12/31/23.

Vacancies: Mayor Rogers announced vacancies on Board of Recreation, Municipal Alliance, and EDAC.

Ordinances –

First Reading – None

Second Reading –

Ms. Rubin read the following ordinance by title only:

**TOWNSHIP OF CRANBURY
ORDINANCE # 01-22-01**

**CALENDAR YEAR 2022
ORDINANCE TO EXCEED THE MUNICIPAL BUDGET APPROPRIATION LIMITS AND TO
ESTABLISH A CAP BANK**

WHEREAS, the Local Government Cap Law, N.J.S. 40A: 4-45.1 et seq., provides that in the preparation of its annual budget, a municipality shall limit any increase in said budget up to 2.5% unless authorized by ordinance to increase it to 3.5% over the previous year's final appropriations, subject to certain exceptions; and,

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 40A: 4-45.15a provides that a municipality may, when authorized by ordinance, appropriate the difference between the amount of its actual final appropriation and the 3.5% percentage rate as an exception to its final appropriations in either of the next two succeeding years; and,

WHEREAS, the governing body of the Township of Cranbury in the County of Middlesex finds it advisable and necessary to increase its CY 2022 budget by up to 3.5% over the previous year's final appropriations, in the interest of promoting the health, safety and welfare of the citizens; and,

WHEREAS, the governing body hereby determines that a 1.0% increase in the budget for said year, amounting to \$83,908.10 in excess of the increase in final appropriations otherwise permitted by the Local Government Cap Law, is advisable and necessary; and,

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WHEREAS the governing body hereby determines that any amount authorized hereinabove that is not appropriated as part of the final budget shall be retained as an exception to final appropriation in either of the next two succeeding years.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT ORDAINED, by the governing body of the Township of Cranbury, in the County of Middlesex, a majority of the full authorized membership of this governing body affirmatively concurring, that, in the CY 2022 budget year, the final appropriations of the Township of Cranbury shall, in accordance with this ordinance and N.J.S.A. 40A: 4-45.14, be increased by 3.5%, amounting to \$293,678.35, and that the CY 2022 municipal budget for the Township of Cranbury be approved and adopted in accordance with this ordinance; and,

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED, that any that any amount authorized hereinabove that is not appropriated as part of the final budget shall be retained as an exception to final appropriation in either of the next two succeeding years; and,

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED, that a certified copy of this ordinance as introduced be filed with the Director of the Division of Local Government Services within 5 days of introduction; and,

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED, that a certified copy of this ordinance upon adoption, with the recorded vote included thereon, be filed with said Director within 5 days after such adoption.

Mayor Rogers opened for public comment on the ordinance only. Hearing none, the mayor closed the public comment on the ordinance.

Mayor Rogers opened for township committee members comment on the ordinance only. Hearing none, the mayor closed the township committee comment on the ordinance.

Mr. Ferrante made a motion to adopt the ordinance. Mrs. Spann seconded the motion. On a roll call vote, the ordinance was adopted.

Ayes: (El-Badawi
(Ferrante
(Scott
(Spann
(Rogers

Abstain: (None
Absent: (None
Nays: (None

Resolutions – Non-Consent Items:

Ms. Marabello announced the Public Hearing for the 2022 Municipal Budget will be held on Monday, March 14, 2022 at 7:00 p.m. Ms. Marabello stated the Budget will be posted on the township website and copies can be obtained from the Clerk's Office. On a motion by Mr. Ferrante, seconded by Mr. Scott and unanimously carried, the following Resolution was passed by vote:

Ayes: (El-Badawi
(Ferrante
(Scott
(Spann
(Rogers

Abstain: (None
Absent: (None
Nays: (None

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**CRANBURY TOWNSHIP RESOLUTION R 02-22-036
2022 MUNICIPAL BUDGET**

of the Township of Cranbury, county of Middlesex for the fiscal year 2022.

Revenue and Appropriation Summaries

Summary of Revenues	2022	Anticipated 2021
1. Surplus	\$ 1,790,000.00	\$ 1,535,000.00
2. Total Miscellaneous Revenues	\$ 3,591,935.53	\$ 4,272,403.57
3. Receipts from Delinquent Taxes	\$ 153,008.54	\$ 450,747.88
4. a) Local Tax for Municipal Purposes	\$ 6,674,297.95	\$ 6,603,770.86
b) Addition to Local District School Tax		
c) Minimum Library Tax	\$ 663,769.00	\$ 667,829.00
Tot Amt to be Raised by Taxes for Mun Budget	\$ 7,338,066.95	\$ 7,271,599.86
 Total General Revenues	 \$12,873,011.02	 \$13,529,751.31
Summary of Appropriations	2022 Budget	Final 2021 Budget
1. Operating Expenses: S&W	\$3,578,617.22	\$3,747,036.80
Other Expenses	\$5,875,417.34	\$6,411,636.72
2. Deferred Charges & Other Appropriations	\$1,184,356.28	\$1,124,615.11
3. Capital Improvements	\$ 115,000.00	\$ 0.00
4. Debt Service (include for School Purposes)	\$1,974,939.57	\$1,772,489.50
5. Reserve for Uncollected Taxes	\$ 144,680.61	\$ 473,973.18
 Total General Appropriations	 \$12,873,011.02	 \$13,529,751.31
Total Number of Employees	68	71

Balance of Outstanding Debt

Interest Payments in 2022	\$ 4,255,272.50
Principal Payments in 2022	\$17,534,000.00
Outstanding Balance (12/31/21)	\$21,789,272.50

Notice is hereby given that the budget and tax resolution was approved by the Township Committee of the Township of Cranbury, County of Middlesex on February 7, 2022.

A hearing on the budget and tax resolution will be held via Zoom on March 14, 2022 at 7:00 o'clock PM at which time and place objections to the Budget and Tax Resolution for the year 2022 may be presented by taxpayers or other interested persons.

Copies of the budget are available in the office of the Township Clerk at the Municipal Building, 23A North Main St Cranbury, NJ, (609) 395-0900 ext*234 during the hours of 8:00 AM to 4:00 PM, Monday through Friday.

Resolutions – Consent

Mayor Rogers asked the Township Committee if there were any questions or comments on the Consent Agenda items. Hearing none, the mayor asked for motion to adopt the Consent Agenda items. On a motion by Mr. Ferrante, seconded by Mrs. El-Badawi the following Consent Agenda Resolution(s) were adopted unanimously by the following vote:

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Ayes: (El-Badawi
(Ferrante
(Scott
(Spann
(Rogers

Abstain: (None
Absent: (None
Nays: (None

CRANBURY TOWNSHIP RESOLUTION #R 01-22-037

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Township of Cranbury that all bills and claims as audited and found to be correct be paid;

Cranbury Township Resolution # R 02-22-038

**A Resolution to Adopt Middlesex County Multi-Jurisdictional
All Hazards Mitigation Plan Adopted for 2022**

WHEREAS, a 2022 Middlesex County Multi-Jurisdictional All Hazards Mitigation Plan was submitted to FEMA for approval; and

WHEREAS, the State Office of Emergency Management has advised that said Plan has been approved by FEMA; and

WHEREAS, FEMA requires that the County and each municipality must formally adopt said Plan; and

WHEREAS, the adoption of said Plan is in the best interests of the residents of Middlesex County and the residents of Cranbury Township;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Committee of the Township of Cranbury that it hereby endorses the Middlesex County Multi-Jurisdictional All Hazards Mitigation Plan which was adopted by the Middlesex County Board of Chosen Freeholders;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a certified copy of this resolution is sent to the Middlesex County Board of Chosen Freeholders.

Cranbury Township Resolution # R 02-22-039

**A Resolution Requesting the State of New Jersey To Pursue Regional Solutions to Flooding
within the Millstone River Basin**

WHEREAS, there has been an increase in storm severity in the region, beginning with Tropical Storm Irene in 2011 followed by Hurricane Sandy in 2012, and more recently with Tropical Storm Isaias in 2020 and Tropical Storm Ida in 2021, with additional increases expected due to climate change factors for the foreseeable future; and

WHEREAS, storms such as these and the resulting flooding have produced not only economic damage and devastating hardship for those directly impacted but have also caused shutdowns of transportation, schools and businesses throughout the region; and

WHEREAS, flooding within Cranbury impacts not only our own residents and businesses but limits access to regional transportation at Princeton Junction Train Station on the Western Corridor and to major state arteries such as U.S. 1; and

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WHEREAS, the resulting flooding also creates public health and safety issues that severely stretch our First Responders and have resulted in injury and death in the region, far outweighing the direct economic impacts;

WHEREAS, the negative impacts of flooding in Cranbury Township are most greatly and directly experience with flooding in the Millstone River Basin; and

WHEREAS, the Millstone River Basin comprises 238 square miles within the counties of Mercer, Middlesex, Monmouth, Hunterdon and Somerset, making this flooding a multi-county regional problem that cannot be alleviated by independent action of any one municipality; and

WHEREAS, the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) in 2004 and the Army Corps of Engineers in 2016 each studied limited areas within the Millstone River Basin and identified major infrastructure projects that could reduce flood damage and loss to the populations of the studied areas, including floodwalls, channel modifications, raising roads and bridge decks, and other methods requiring significant capital outlay, environmental permitting and a coordinated regional effort; and

WHEREAS, the Federal government has current and protentional programs to provide grant funding for infrastructure projects that could help undertake one or more regional solutions to this flooding problem; and

WHEREAS, the Governor, per Executive Order No. 89, acknowledges:

- (a) The importance of communities and government entities integrating climate change considerations into planning and decision making, and becoming more resilient to the effects of climate change; and
- (b) That each dollar spent on mitigation of hazards results in a six-fold decrease in spending on post-disaster recovery; and
- (c) That it is the policy of the State that Executive Branch departments and agencies to take proactive and coordinated efforts, where appropriate, to protect public health and safety and to promote and protect the physical, economic and social vitality and resilience of New Jersey's communities from the current and anticipated impacts of climate change.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Committee of the Township of Cranbury that it hereby requests the State of New Jersey to undertake one or more regional projects to address and mitigate the current negative effects of flooding in the Millstone River Basin within Cranbury Township and the other affected municipalities;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Municipal Clerk is directed that copies of this Resolution be sent to: The Governor of New Jersey, Assembly Speaker, Senate President, State legislators in the affected districts, and the County Executive and County Commissioners in the affected counties;

Cranbury Township Resolution # R 02-22-040

WHEREAS, in 1999 the Township of Cranbury established the annual Length of Service Award Program (LOSAP) for the Cranbury Township Fire Company and First Aid Squad to enhance the municipality's ability to retain and recruit new members; and

WHEREAS, LOSAP shall provide for annual contributions for each eligible member,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, BY THE TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF CRANBURY, that the Township agrees to make an annual LOSAP contribution of

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\$1,814.00 per eligible Fire Company and First Aid Squad member and that the total LOSAP contribution will be funded by virtue of adoption of the annual municipal operating budget.

Cranbury Township Resolution #02-22-041

RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF CRANBURY, NJ

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE RELEASE OF ESCROW

WHEREAS, Cranbury Station Park has deposited engineering and planning escrow with Cranbury Township

WHEREAS, Plant Food has requested the release of the balance of said planning escrow in the amount of \$3,807.16 and engineering escrow in the amount of \$130,113.85.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Township Committee of the Township of Cranbury authorizes the release of the above escrow deposits.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution, certified by the Township Clerk to be a true copy and forwarded to each of the following:

- (a) Township Director of Finance
- (b) Cranbury Station Park

Public Comment

Mayor Rogers then opened the meeting to general public comment.

- Connie Bauder – Mrs. Bauder read a report which was in disagreement with the township's assessment for Petty Road flooding. She discussed the continuance of flooding in the area, construction debris being dumped and the temperature of the sitting water creating hazards for the wildlife and algae growth. She stated the Petty Rd flooding & Cedar Brook processes need to be addressed as private property is impacted in the area.
- Andrea Mandel – Member of the West Windsor Council – Thanked the township for adopting resolution #R 02-22-039 requesting the State of New Jersey to pursue regional solutions to flooding within the Millstone River Basin.

Mayor Rogers closed the public comment portion at 8:00 p.m.

Action Items:

- EDAC to attend upcoming meeting on March 14th.
- Mr. Ferrante to present "De-Mystifying Local Government" at meeting on February 28th
- Municipal Alliance Goals and Accomplishments to be scheduled (Mayor Rogers to schedule)
- Maintain a list of infrastructure (Mayor Rogers) & revisit in July
- Communication with schools about signs on Petty Rd (Traffic Subcommittee) Date TBD
- Art competition – photos – Mr. Ferrante and Mayor Rogers
- CDBG Grant – Public hearing scheduled for February 28th

Adjourn

Mayor Rogers requested a motion to adjourn. On motion by Mr. Ferrante, seconded by Mr. Scott and unanimously carried, the meeting adjourned at 8:06 p.m.

Debra A. Rubin, RMC
Municipal Clerk